

# JEAN MONNET MODULE

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GREEN DEAL, SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND TURKIYE'S INTEGRATION

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## WASTE TRADE AND GREEN DEAL



Prof. Dr. Rana ATABAY KUŞÇU

The European Green Deal is a comprehensive and ambitious plan for the European Union (EU) to transition towards a sustainable and circular economy. Waste management lies at the heart of this agenda, and the concept of waste trade plays a crucial role in achieving the Green Deal's objectives.

The European Green Deal places a strong emphasis on transitioning from a linear economy to a circular one. Waste trade becomes a crucial instrument in this transition, promoting the reuse, recycling, and recovery of materials. By facilitating the movement of secondary raw materials across borders, waste trade contributes to the principles of the circular economy by minimizing waste and optimizing resource use.

Waste trade plays a significant role in enhancing resource efficiency, which is a key goal of the European Green Deal. By trading recyclable materials, EU member states can tap into a wider pool of resources, reducing the need for primary resource extraction. This, in turn, contributes to the decoupling of economic growth from resource consumption, which is a fundamental aspect of the Green Deal's sustainability agenda.

### Table Of Contents

1. *Waste Trade and Green Deal* by  
Prof. Dr. Rana ATABAY KUŞÇU

2. *Waste and Waste Management in  
the Construction Industry* by Assist.  
Prof. Dr. Gizem CAN

3. *EU News*

4. *COP28 UAE - United Nations Climate  
Change Conference*

5. *What We Have Done So Far*

6. *Injustice of Waste & Next Event*

Waste trade can act as a catalyst for innovation and investments in recycling technologies and waste management infrastructure. As member states engage in cross-border waste trade, there is an incentive to develop and adopt advanced technologies that enhance the quality and quantity of recycled materials. This fosters a competitive market for sustainable waste management solutions and encourages investments in green technologies.

The Green Deal is committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Waste trade supports this objective by reducing the carbon footprint associated with waste management. Trading recyclable materials allows countries to meet their recycling targets more efficiently, avoiding the energy-intensive processes of incineration or landfilling. This, in turn, contributes to lower greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with the EU's climate goals.

Waste trade fosters collaboration among EU member states, encouraging the sharing of best practices and harmonization of waste management standards. This collaborative approach is essential for addressing transboundary environmental challenges and ensuring that waste is managed uniformly across the EU, reinforcing the Green Deal's commitment to a coordinated and collective effort.

Waste trade is a vital tool in the successful implementation of the European Green Deal. By promoting circular economy principles, enhancing resource efficiency, spurring innovation, contributing to emission reduction, and fostering cross-border collaboration, waste trade becomes an indispensable tool in achieving a sustainable and resilient future for the European Union.





## *Waste and Waste Management in the Construction Industry*

*Assist. Prof. Dr. Gizem Can,  
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The construction industry, one of the industries that directly interacts with the economic situation of countries, leads many sub-sectors. Therefore, the importance of innovative and sustainable approaches in the construction industry, which is integrated with the national economy and many other sectors, cannot be overstated. As a result of playing a key role for economic growth, construction industry needs to be improved in terms managerial issues to control the building life cycle processes for circular economy which is a contemporary solution for today's world. The circular economy minimizes the need for new virgin materials and energy inputs, while reducing environmental pressures associated with resource extraction, emissions, and waste management. At this point, it is important to manage waste effectively. In order to manage waste properly, it is necessary to define the concept of "waste" in the construction industry correctly.

Waste in the building production process can be defined as the result of unavoidable and avoidable activities that do not create value and that are caused by different reasons such as building production processes, stakeholders, force majeure, and that occur in non-physical form such as quality, time, cost or in physical form such as labor, materials, equipment. Especially when the environmental dimension of sustainability is considered, the focus should be on material waste, which is one of the physical wastes in the construction industry. Managing material waste and accordingly minimizing or even eliminating waste is also very important and necessary in terms of efficient use of resources and contributing to the circular economy. According to Eurostat (2023)'s updated report, the construction industry is responsible for over 37% of the European Union's total waste generation. Construction material wastes (CMW), which is one of the types of physical wastes, are mostly occurred during construction and demolition (C&D) sites of building and civil engineering structures.



## REVIEWS Cont.

According to BigRentz's Research (2021), C&D material wastes such as concrete, asphalt, brick, wood, and other building wastes are estimated to be nearly one-quarter of national waste stream, which is the total material waste generated in the United States in one year. The research emphasizes that CMW generation is on the rise, and it is expected to skyrocket soon. In just United States, C&D waste generation increased by 342% from 1990 to 2018 and between 2005-2018, C&D waste generation levels grew more than 10 times faster than from 1990 to 2005 (Environmental Protection Agency, 2021). The United Kingdom generated 67.8 million tons of C&D material waste in 2018. In 2018, the Netherlands produced 25.12 million tons C&D material waste. Similarly, Germany generated 218.8 million tons material wastes in 2018 and this amount reached to 230.85 million tons in 2019. On the other hand, European Union are responsible for generating 850 million tons of C&D waste per year (Stone Cycling, 2021). Furthermore, Transparency Market Research (2022) states that annual construction waste is expected to reach 2.2 billion tons globally by 2025. This amount is expected to generate 2.59 billion tons of material waste annually by 2030 and to rise further to 3.40 billion tons by 2050 (Stone Cycling, 2021).

The management of material waste is becoming more important with the necessity of effective use of limited resources in the world. Implementation of construction waste management can be one of the apparent solutions for the industry to minimize waste and waste disposal. Good practice in material waste management generates favorable results with various benefits such as cost savings, effective source usage, sustainability etc. Well organized and implemented material waste management in the construction industry provides reduced demand for landfill spaces, improved resource management, productivity, and quality improvement as well as economic benefits. Material waste management involves a systematic approach to plan, identify, assess, response, implement and monitor process during the project that prevent the exposure waste using some the tools and techniques.

Waste management is a process that should be cared during the construction project life cycle that includes waste hierarchy in the assessment step. On the other hand, waste management closely associate with almost whole construction project stakeholders such as the client, the main contractor, design team, subcontractors, project employees, suppliers, government authorities and residents. It is important that improving legislative framework in each country will promote the sustainable resource management all over the world when the construction waste generation is taken into consideration. As a result of the today's limited resources, need of sustainable development and circular economy, waste management in the construction industry should has needed priority.





## EU leads global initiative at COP28 to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency measures by 2030

On the third day of World Climate Action Summit in Dubai, President Ursula von der Leyen launched the Global Pledge on Renewables and Energy Efficiency together with the COP28 Presidency and 118 countries. This initiative, first proposed by the Commission President at the Major Economies Forum in April, sets global targets to triple the installed capacity of renewable energy to at least 11 terawatts (TW) and to double the rate of global energy efficiency improvements from roughly 2% to an annual figure of 4%, by 2030. Delivering these targets will support the transition to a decarbonized energy system, and help to phase out unabated fossil fuels.



The Global Pledge has been developed in close cooperation by the European Commission and the COP28 Presidency, with the support of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Adopted during the first days of COP28, this Pledge should help to build momentum towards reaching the most ambitious negotiated outcome possible at the end of this year's conference. To support the delivery of the Global Pledge, President von der Leyen announced that in the next two years, we will invest 2.3 billion euro from the EU budget to support the energy transition in our neighbourhood and around the globe.

[For more detail](#)



## Council adopts new regulation on batteries and waste batteries



The European Council adopted a new regulation that strengthens sustainability rules for batteries and waste batteries. The regulation will regulate the entire life cycle of batteries – from production to reuse and recycling – and ensure that they are safe, sustainable and competitive. The regulation of the European Parliament and the Council will apply to all batteries including all waste portable batteries, electric vehicle batteries, industrial batteries, starting, lighting and ignition (SLI) batteries (used mostly for vehicles and machinery) and batteries for light means of transport (e.g. electric bikes, e-mopeds, e-scooters).

The new rules aim to promote a circular economy by regulating batteries throughout their life cycle. The regulation therefore establishes end-of-life requirements, including collection targets and obligations, targets for the recovery of materials and extended producer responsibility. The regulation sets targets for producers to collect waste portable batteries (63% by the end of 2027 and 73% by the end of 2030), and introduces a dedicated collection objective for waste batteries for light means of transport (51% by the end of 2028 and 61% by the end of 2031). The regulation sets a target for lithium recovery from waste batteries of 50% by the end of 2027 and 80% by the end of 2031, which can be amended through delegated acts depending on market and technological developments and the availability of lithium. The regulation provides for mandatory minimum levels of recycled content for industrial, SLI batteries and EV batteries. These are initially set at 16% for cobalt, 85% for lead, 6% for lithium and 6% for nickel. Batteries will have to hold a recycled content documentation.

[For more detail](#)



## Türkiye Sustainability Reporting Standards were published by the Public Oversight Authority.

In 2025, covered entities are required to report in accordance with TSRS (Turkish Sustainable Reporting Standards) covering the period between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024. Accordingly, information on sustainability-related risks and opportunities will be disclosed in accordance with TSRS 1 General Provisions for Disclosure of Sustainability-Related Financial Information. Information on climate-related risks and opportunities will be disclosed in accordance with TSRS 2 Climate-related Disclosures. TSRS S1 requires entities to disclose information about sustainability-related risks and opportunities in general financial reports, while TSRS S2 requires entities to disclose information about climate-related risks and opportunities.

During the application of this reporting, entities subject to the thresholds will be subject to the scope of application of TSRS from the following accounting period if they exceed the thresholds for at least two of the three criteria set out in this Decision in two consecutive accounting periods. On the other hand, an entity that is subject to the scope of application of TSRS because it exceeds the thresholds is out of the scope of application of TSRS from the following accounting period if it falls below the thresholds for at least two of the three criteria in two consecutive accounting periods or if it falls twenty per cent or more below the thresholds for at least two of these criteria in an accounting period.

[For more detail](#)



## EU extends its ETS to the maritime sector



On 1 January 2024, the EU extended the coverage of its ETS to incorporate the maritime sector, as part of the broader EU ETS reform that came into force in June 2023. The sector represents 3 to 4% of the EU's total CO2 emissions. Following this expansion, the EU ETS now includes emissions from large ships departing from and arriving in EU ports, regardless of their flag. Initially, the system applies to vessels transporting goods and passengers with a gross tonnage of 5000 or more. Starting in 2027, the coverage will extend to vessels engaged in offshore activities such as oil and gas exploration or maritime construction, again with a gross tonnage of 5000 or above.

The system covers emissions generated when ships are docked in EU ports and during journeys within the EU, with an additional inclusion of 50% of emissions from trips to or from non-EU countries. The extended system will initially cover CO2 (carbon dioxide) emissions only, with CH4 (methane) and N2O (nitrous oxide) scheduled for inclusion from 2026 onward. The extension of the EU ETS to the maritime sector is integral to the European Union's comprehensive "Fit for 55" policy package. Adopted on 16 May 2023, these regulations officially came into force on 5 June 2023. They mark a significant milestone for the EU ETS, effectively placing emissions trading at the heart of the EU's decarbonization agenda.

[For more detail](#)



# COP28 UAE - United Nations Climate Change Conference

**COP28** brought the world together to shape collective commitments to climate action and achieve the globally agreed 1.5°C warming limit. The negotiations culminated in a final agreement on global "**fossil fuel divestment**". This is the first time that fossil fuel divestment has been explicitly included in a final agreement at a COP.

## **Thematic topics at COP28;**

- World Climate Action Summit
- Health / Help, Healing and Peace
- Finance / Trade / Gender Equality / Accountability
- Energy, Industry / Just Transition / Indigenous Peoples.

At the COP27 held last year, the fragile countries that would be most affected by the climate crisis were identified and it was decided to establish a **Loss and Damage Fund** for these countries. Although it was decided to establish the fund, the method and how it would be operated, which countries or who would contribute to this fund could not be determined and all these were left to COP28. The Loss and Damage Fund was finalised on the first day of COP28.

By 2030, the greening of the global economy would require an investment of \$5-7 billion a year, it said. **The UAE Declaration on the Global Climate Finance Framework** was published, aiming to make climate finance more accessible and affordable.

123 countries joined the **Global Renewable and Energy Efficiency Commitment**. The goal is to expand energy systems free of fossil fuels and limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2030.

A joint report launched by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) at COP 28 and published on 9 December provides information on global hydrogen trade and policies to increase production.

On the last day of the meeting, a roadmap for "**transition away from fossil fuels**" was approved, a first in UN climate conferences; however, the agreement fell short of the long-demanded call for "phasing out" oil, coal and natural gas.

In a show of global solidarity, negotiators from nearly 200 Parties gathered in Dubai to launch the world's first '**Global Stocktake**' to accelerate climate action by the end of the decade to achieve the 1.5°C global temperature limit.

The global stocktake is recognised as the main output of COP28 because it includes every element negotiated and can now be used by countries to develop stronger climate action plans by 2025.

**The Global Stocktake** includes the following chapters: helping countries strengthen their resilience to the impacts of climate change, scaling up climate finance, engagement and inclusiveness, strengthening co-operation between governments and key stakeholders, and looking ahead.

**At COP28, Parties also agreed that Azerbaijan will host COP29 from 11-22 November 2024 and Brazil will host COP30 from 10-21 November 2025.**



# WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR?



Within the scope of the module, from **Marmara University, Faculty of Economics, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Babacan** met with students with the title “**Emerging Markets Green Transformation of SMEs**”.

We focused on European Green Deal, SMEs, challenges and opportunities and the purpose and benefits of Türkiye’s green transformation during the course. We have examined the contribution of SMEs to economy. Also, we discussed about importance of emerging market economies in this environment.



The kick-off seminar of the semester in the scope of the EU-(TR)ADE Jean Monnet Module was held with the contribution of İstanbul Medipol University Faculty of Fine Arts, Design and Architecture, **Assist. Prof. Dr. Gizem Can**.

The seminar entitled “**Waste Management Oriented Circular Economy in the Construction Industry**” is moderated by the module coordinator Prof. Dr. Rana Atabay Kuşçu. Assist. Prof. Dr. Can made her speech on construction sector transformation, benefits of circular economy, effects of circular economy in the constructions sector.



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## REVIEWS



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Project Team

Medipol Business  
School, Economics  
and Finance

## Injustice of Waste

The problem of waste management is different for developing countries. Developed nations have a tendency to export their waste to developing nations in Asia and Africa rather than managing it domestically. From 1988 to 2016, the value of the world's waste trade to importing nations was \$98.3 billion. The annual waste trade increased dramatically in 2016 after growing quickly in 1993. The waste trade increased by 723% in 1993 and by 817% in 2016. (UN Comtrade). Since the economies of developing countries are generally not as strong as those of developed countries (e.g. USA, Germany, France), people in these countries tend to buy less packaged products. They also produce less waste than the United States or industrialized countries. While developed countries have waste management and collection policies, this is not the case for other countries. But what happens after these wastes, which are "carefully" collected by developed countries? Actually, the story starts right here. It is cheaper for developed countries to send containers of plastic waste to countries around the world for "recycling" to developing countries.

Many importing countries (especially lower-middle and low-income countries) lack the infrastructure and capital to adequately manage even their own waste. As a result, these imported wastes are added as a burden to landfills or open dumps and, in the worst case, end up in the oceans. In this sense, Basel Convention plays a vital role in regulating waste management globally, particularly in the context of international trade. It is an international treaty designed to control the transboundary movements of hazardous waste and ensure its environmentally sound management. The convention establishes strict guidelines for the export, import, and disposal of hazardous waste, aiming to prevent the transfer of toxic substances to countries with inadequate waste management infrastructure. Last year, 187 countries reached agreements to restrict the export of plastic rubbish from rich countries to developing countries. But these agreements are not yielding the hoped-for results. According to an analysis of global trade data by the nonprofit Basel Action Network conclude that, "Toxic pollution and its burden on communities and ecosystems in importing countries continues as a direct consequence of these multiple violations".

Improper management of imported waste can result in pollution, health hazards, and strained resources. While plastic imports and recycling can be a legitimate and lucrative "green" industry in developing countries, rogue companies make it more profitable to burn plastics or dump them in landfills. Burning plastic releases toxic fumes into the air. In landfills, plastics can leach toxins and enter local waterways. It should not be forgotten that no matter how far these wastes are transported, they will eventually damage the global ecosystem.

Importing countries, in particular, must urgently address the challenges associated with waste management to prevent further pollution and protect their citizens. By implementing innovative solutions, adopting strict regulations, and investing in infrastructure, importing countries can combat toxic pollution effectively. Governments, businesses, and individuals must work together, taking responsibility for their waste and promoting sustainable practices.



## NEXT EVENT

The most interactive and innovative part of the course will be based on role-playing. In the last 2 weeks of the term, students will be divided into groups and perform role-playing. They will evaluate the effects of the EU Green Deal on the economies of Türkiye and the European Commission.

Accordingly, one of the groups will be European Commission representatives, one will be Turkish Delegation Representatives, and the other group will be sector representatives from Türkiye.

Students will conduct a debate through the eyes of the institutions they represent. With this modeling, leadership, initiative-taking, public speaking, teamwork abilities, and many other soft skills will be developed.

The main purpose of conducting this methodology is to make the course more interactive, instructive, and informative.

In the role-playing week, students will discuss green jobs, green buildings and energy.

Our students and instructors are invited to this event which will be held on the 9th of January.

**ROLE-PLAYING**

**JEAN MONNET MODULE**

GREEN DEAL, SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND TURKIYE'S INTEGRATION

101085103-EU-TRADE-ERASMUS-3MO-2022-HEI-TCH-RSCH

TEAM 1 : Green Jobs  
TEAM 2 : Green Buildings  
TEAM 3 : Energy

9 January 2024 | 13.30

South Campus | B305

Our students and lecturers are invited to the presentations.

Co-funded by the European Union

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